Ron Bolze Joining Red Angus Staff

Ron Bolze has accepted the position of Commercial Marketing Director at the Red Angus Association of America effective November 1st.

Ron grew up on a dairy and general livestock farm in south central Pennsylvania. He attended Pennsylvania State University where he received a BS in Animal Science in 1976, and was recognized as the Outstanding Senior in the College of Agriculture. Upon graduation from Penn State, he returned to the family farm and spent the next five years developing a commercial beef cow/calf and cattle feeding enterprise. He was deeply interested in beef cattle genetics and reproduction, and in searching for institutions and individuals that excelled in these disciplines. He pursued graduate work with Dr. Larry Corah from Kansas State University and was awarded a PhD in May 1985 in Reproductive Physiology. In 1991, Ron married Rebecca Kay Lee and they are the parents of six children.

Ron worked as a beef cattle extension specialist at the Ohio State University from June 1985 through May 1991. Extension efforts involved general cow/calf management with a discipline orientation including reproduction, nutrition, and genetics. For five years, Ron managed the Ohio Bull Test Program and effectively utilized this arena to create greater awareness, understanding and application of beef cattle animal breeding principles. Cow/calf producers increasingly employed the use of Expected Progeny Differences for more effective sire selection. Ron was also instrumental in the development of the Buckeye Feedlot Test as a means by which cow/calf producers could retain ownership of their calf crop beyond the traditional weaning phase. In an attempt to more closely meet the genetic needs of Southern Ohio cow/calf producers, Ron initiated the Southern Ohio Bull Evaluation Center (SOBEC) with emphasis on gain evaluation on high roughage rations. He also served as the Eastern Regional Secretary for the Beef Improvement Federation (BIF).

In 1991, Ron accepted the position of Extension Specialist, Livestock Production within the Kansas State University Animal Science Department and was headquartered at a KSU experiment station near Colby, Kan. His many extension efforts included matching genotypes to environment and market demands, sire selection, reducing genetic variation, value based marketing, formula pricing, alliance formulations and whole herd, inventory based decision making. General management extension efforts focused on documenting cost of production with emphasis on lower cost production, quality assurance in an attempt to eliminate carcass residues and injection site lesions and investigating alternative timing of calving season and weaning as greater application of the systems approach to beef production.

On a national level, Ron served from 1993 to 1998 as Executive Director of the BIF, which is recognized as the premiere performance oriented national level beef cattle organization. BIF membership included approximately 40 state level beef cattle improvement associations, 35 national level breed associations, 20 industry related organizations and 10 organizations from foreign countries. The seventh edition of the "Guidelines for Uniform Beef lmprovement Programs" was printed during Ron's tenure.

In February of 1998, Ron accepted a position with the Certified Angus Beef (CAB) Program, LLC to direct progeny testing for carcass merit working closely with the American Angus Association Herd Improvement Program. Ron coordinated the placement of 350-400 young, promising Angus sires into commercial test herds for carcass testing and comparison against high accuracy, proven sires. Ron also directed coordination of carcass data collection on progeny of these sires contributing to the Angus carcass database, which at that time included genetic information on in excess of 3000 Angus sires. As the Angus community embraced the use of ultrasonography on yearling bulls and heifers, the traditional progeny testing for carcass merit declined. In 2000, Ron assumed directorship of CAB genetic programs, which focuses primarily on genomic applications. Through collaboration with molecular biologists at the Ohio State University, efforts included researching the potential application of random amplified polymorphism DNA methods for feedlot sorting into target market groups and genetic selection of Angus cattle for carcass merit. Ron also coordinated a series of educational events called Brand Builders that targeted Angus seed stock and commercial producers to create greater awareness of CAB, LLC.

In May 2003, Ron assumed the position of Executive Secretary for the American Shorthorn Association. He was instrumental in establishing a proactive approach to genetic defect identification through DNA marker technology. Ron initiated efforts within the Shorthorn breed to create greater awareness and appreciation for commercial application of Shorthorn genetics. ■